

REMARKS

In the Final Action dated June 1, 2007 and the Advisory Action dated September 6, 2007, Claims 17 and 19-25 are pending and under consideration. Claims 17 and 19-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 17 and 19-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite.

In the first instance, Applicants, through the undersigned, wish to thank Examiner Lu for the courtesy and assistance extended to Applicants during a telephone conference conducted on December 18, 2007.

This Supplemental Amendment and the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) together with the amendments and arguments therein submitted on October 1, 2007 address each of the Examiner's rejections. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance or at least in a better condition for appeal. Favorable consideration of all pending claims is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 17 and 19-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. The Examiner alleges that the claims contain new matter by reciting " $a_{\max} = n; j_{\max}$ and $k_{\max} \geq n$ " in Claim 17; a three-unit structure consisting of SD unit, D0j unit and ED unit in claim 20; the phrase "step (g) is performed by sequences (D0j, D1k)' complimentary to the flag sequences (D0j, D1k) immobilized to a DNA capillary" in claim 21, and the phrase "each of the units of the flag sequences (D0j, D1k) is an orthonormal nucleotide sequence" in claim 24.

Applicants respectfully submit that the specification provides sufficient descriptive support for the above-mentioned recitations. However, in order to favorably advance

prosecution, Applicants submitted an Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 dated August 21, 2007, in which Applicants have canceled Claims 20, 21 and 24, without prejudice, as well as the recitation " $a_{\max}=n; j_{\max}$ and $k_{\max} \geq n$ " in Claim 17. Applicants have reserved the right to file a continuation application to pursue the subject matter of claims 20, 21 and 24. However, the Examiner did not enter the Amendment because it was filed after a final rejection. Nevertheless, the Examiner in the Advisory Action explicitly agrees to withdraw the written description rejection. Since the RCE was filed together with the Amendment dated August 21, 2007, all the amendments and arguments submitted with the RCE should be entered. The Examiner, during the telephone interview, also confirmed that the rejection of Claims 17 and 19-25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly containing new matter is withdrawn in view of the amendments and arguments submitted together with the RCE. Claims 17 and 19 have been further amended to clarify language as discussed below. No new matter is introduced by the further amendments. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 17 and 19-25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph is overcome. Applicants request the Examiner to formally withdraw the rejection.

Claims 17 and 19-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly indefinite. During the telephone interview, the Examiner acknowledged that the claims presented in the Amendment dated August 21, 2007 are much clearer. However, the Examiner stated that the square brackets recited in the claims still made the claims unclear. The Examiner suggested that the rejection might be withdrawn if the recited square brackets are replaced with the "wherein" language.

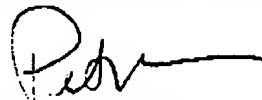
Pursuant to the Examiner's suggestion, Applicants have made additional amendment to Claim 17. Claim 17, as amended, is essentially similar to that as previously presented except

the language of the claim is further clarified. Support for the amendment is found in previously presented Claim 17 and previously presented, now canceled, Claim 18. Claim 19 is also amended to correct a certain punctuation mark informality and will further clarify the language. No new matter is introduced by the amendments to Claims 17 and 19. Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 17, as amended, does not recite any square brackets. Claim 17, as amended, is directed to a method of detecting n kind of different target nucleic acids (F_n, S_n). Combinations of the flag sequences $D0_j$ and $D1_k$ are respectively assigned to n kinds of different target nucleic acids (F_n, S_n). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 17, as amended, is clear and not indefinite.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejections of Claims 17 and 19-25 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is firmly believed that the subject application is in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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